

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-12 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 9-12 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for participating in the telephonic interview conducted on July 23, 2009.

In the Office Action dated April 27, 2009, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Russell, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0049679 (hereinafter Russell) in view of Erickson, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0046274 (hereinafter Erickson). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims, as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended recites:

1. A contents processing apparatus comprising:
 - a contents information storage that stores a plurality of contents packages, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents packages, plug-in modules including executable operative functions for processing contents packages, and a plug-in management file for defining the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules among a plurality of functions of respective plug-in modules, wherein the contents management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective contents packages based on the respective licenses, and the *plug-in management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective plug-in modules*;
 - a plug-in setting device that installs plug-in modules for processing a contents package;
 - an operation recognition device that identifies permitted operations related to the processing of the contents package from the contents management file corresponding to the contents package;
 - an execution instructing device that provides an instruction for processing the contents package;
 - a *plug-in function permission device that permits use of plug-in modules corresponding to the permitted operations identified by said operation recognition device, among functions of the plug-in modules installed by said plug-in setting device for processing the contents package based on the limit information for the respective plug-in modules*; and
 - a contents processing execution device that processes the contents package, according to

the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules permitted by said plug-in function permission device, *wherein the contents processing apparatus is coupled to an external apparatus via a communication network, and the contents management file is obtained from the external apparatus via the communication network.*

The cited references do not disclose, teach, or suggest the contents processing apparatus specified in independent claim 1, as amended. As the Examiner has acknowledged, Russell fails to disclose the “plug-ins necessary to the media player,” the “plug-in management file,” the “plug-in function permission device,” and the “contents processing execution device” as recited in independent claim 1, as amended.

In addition, unlike the apparatus specified in independent claim 1, as amended, Russell does not teach a contents processing apparatus “*wherein the contents processing apparatus is coupled to an external apparatus via a communication network, and the contents management file is obtained from the external apparatus via the communication network.*”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Russell.

The Erickson reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Russell. Erickson is directed to a software media container. (*Erickson, p. 1, paragraph [0001]*) Erickson discloses a secure container in the form of a universal “envelope” or meta-container which allows for arbitrary media formats and arbitrary digital rights management (DRM) mechanisms. (*Erickson, p. 2, paragraph [0014]*) Erickson discloses that the secure container provides format-level DRM interoperability, which allows participants to appear to use the same media formats. As such, when a file is opened in which a DRM mechanism is specified, a DRM handler calls the specified plug-in or remote service to handle it. However, Erickson states “**what the plug-in or**

service does and how it communicates with the user and on the network is not relevant.”

(Erickson, p. 2, paragraphs [0019-0021]) In other words, Erickson discloses a handler which calls a specified plug-in, but Erickson does not disclose a plug-in management file which includes “*limit information for controlling the use of the respective plug-in modules.*” Thus, the combination of Russell and Erickson does not disclose the “plug-in management file” recited in independent claim 1, as amended.

The combination of Russell and Erickson also fails to disclose a contents processing apparatus “*wherein the contents processing apparatus is coupled to an external apparatus via a communication network, and the contents management file is obtained from the external apparatus via the communication network.*” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Russell in combination with Erickson.

Independent claim 7, as amended recites limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7, as amended distinguishes over Russell in combination with Erickson for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 3-6 and 8 depend from independent claim 1, as amended. Claims 9-11 depend from independent claim 7, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-6 and 8-11 distinguish over Russell in combination with Erickson for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 7, respectively.

New independent claim 12 recites:

12. A contents processing apparatus comprising:
a contents information storage that stores a plurality of contents packages, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents packages, plug-in modules including executable operative functions for processing contents packages, and a plug-

in management file for defining the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules among a plurality of functions of respective plug-in modules, wherein the contents management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective contents packages based on the respective licenses, and the ***plug-in management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective plug-in modules, is rewritable and is obtained independently of the contents packages corresponding thereto;***

a plug-in setting device that installs plug-in modules for processing a contents package;
an operation recognition device that identifies permitted operations related to the processing of the contents package from the contents management file corresponding to the contents package;

an execution instructing device that provides an instruction for processing the contents package;

a plug-in function permission device that permits use of plug-in modules corresponding to the permitted operations identified by said operation recognition device, among functions of the plug-in modules installed by said plug-in setting device for processing the contents package based on the limit information for the respective plug-in modules; and

a contents processing execution device that processes the contents package, according to the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules permitted by said plug-in function permission device.

Neither of the cited references discloses, teaches or suggests the contents processing apparatus recited in independent claim 12. As indicated above with respect to independent claims 1 and 7, as amended, the combination of the Russell and Erickson fails to disclose a contents processing apparatus having a ***“plug-in management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective plug-in modules.”*** The combination of Russell and Erickson also fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the plug-in management file ***“is rewritable and is obtained independently of the contents packages corresponding thereto.”*** Accordingly, independent claim 12 distinguishes over Russell in combination with Erickson.

///

///

///

///

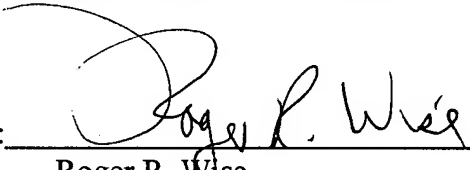
Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

Date: July 27, 2009

By: _____


Roger R. Wise
Registration No. 31,204
Customer No. 27496

725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2800
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406
Telephone: (213) 488-7100
Facsimile: (213) 629-1033